



Spy Pond Committee

Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Teleconference

Minutes

Attendance: Agnes O'Donnell, Bob Noyes, Brad Barber, Brian Battuello, Chuck Tirone, Dick Terry, Eliza Hatch, Gene Benson, Harriet Noyes, Jane Howard, Jacob Friis, Judi Berman

Facilitator: Brad Barber

Minutes: Brian Battuello

1. Introductions - All participants introduced themselves.
2. July Minutes – Approved
3. Report on Dead Swan
Jacob found a dead swan near the Kelwyn Manor boat ramp. He contacted Brad, who called the Arlington animal control officer. There was no sign of trauma. The swan was not part of the pond's long term swan couple. It may have died of West Nile virus.
4. Dredging the Sandbar
Brad sent a note to Brett Loosian. The contract has been approved and activated, and has been handed to MassDOT's District Construction Division. It is on schedule for this fall.
5. Blue Green Algae Sign at Boat Ramp
There is a sign at the boat ramp warning of blue-green algae, prohibiting swimming and suggesting no contact with the water. Brad contacted the Arlington Department of Health, and found that the sign has been up since 2012. Brad discussed conversations about getting the sign removed.

There was a discussion about the requirements of a "bathing beach". The pond does not meet the requirements of a "bathing beach", but the blue-green algae is no longer a risk. There was several reports of good swimming.

6. Early History of Spy Pond

Gene Benson gave a detailed report on the early history of the Spy Pond Committee.

7. Aquatic Biologist

Brad suggested finding a specialist to keep an eye on the pond and advise us on any trends.

8. Oriental Bittersweet and English Ivy

Brad pointed out a new invasive, English Ivy, along Route 2. Brad talked with the Conservation Commission. They decided to wait until next year. The sandbar removal project includes some removal of invasive plants.

9. New Business

Muskrats have been spotted on the pond.

10. Next meeting will be Tuesday, October 1st

11. Adjournment at 8:38pm.